

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over European Patent No. 1,078,828 to Do in view of Yamaguchi et al and Bilyeu et al.

The assignee of the captioned application is the same as that of European Patent No. 1,078,828. The present application is an improvement over European Patent No. '828, in which the two inventions have the technical contents of a buckle apparatus that detects the locking state of a buckle and generates a detected signal for the control of a vehicle adapting a multi-purpose hall sensor assembly comprising a contact switch and a non-contact switch, but the present application is not related to the operating control of the vehicle, but to a configuration of efficiently receiving the multi-purpose hall sensor assembly in the buckle apparatus.

The technical comparisons corresponding to the two inventions is discussed in the prior art section of the specification.

Particularly, the multi-purpose sensor assemblies mounted in the lower case of the two inventions are totally different from each other in respect of their configuration, for example, the multi-purpose sensor assembly includes a contact switch and a non-contact switch integrated in one unit, but Do '828 shows that the contact switch called "mechanical switch" and the non-contact

switch are mounted adjacent to both side walls of the lower case separate from each other which are constituted as a multi-purpose sensor assembly.

U.S. Patent No. 6,427,297 to Yamaguchi fails to disclose any sensor for detecting the insertion of a tongue into a buckle. The Examiner states that it shows positioning means such as ribs and grooves upon the coupling between the lower case and the upper case containing the frame member 2, but no such detailed explanation is made. It is mere conjecture and nothing more in comparing these disparate inventions to each other.

Similarly, U.S. Patent No. 5,749,130 to Bilyeu fails to disclose any sensor for detecting the insertion of the tongue into a buckle, in which the sensors are constituted as two limit switches for determining the position of a stop block connected through a threaded shaft to an actuator such as a micro-motor. The sensors are not concerned with the latch operating of the buckle. Also, the indicator light is not pertinent to the control of the buckle, but notifies users of the operating state of the actuator relative to the position determination of the stop block. Therefore, the cited reference does not disclose the present invention.


Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims in the present application,

as they now stand, patentably distinguish over the references cited and applied by the Examiner and are, therefore, in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is in order, and such favorable action and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

However, if after reviewing the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner has any questions or comments, he is cordially invited to contact the undersigned attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

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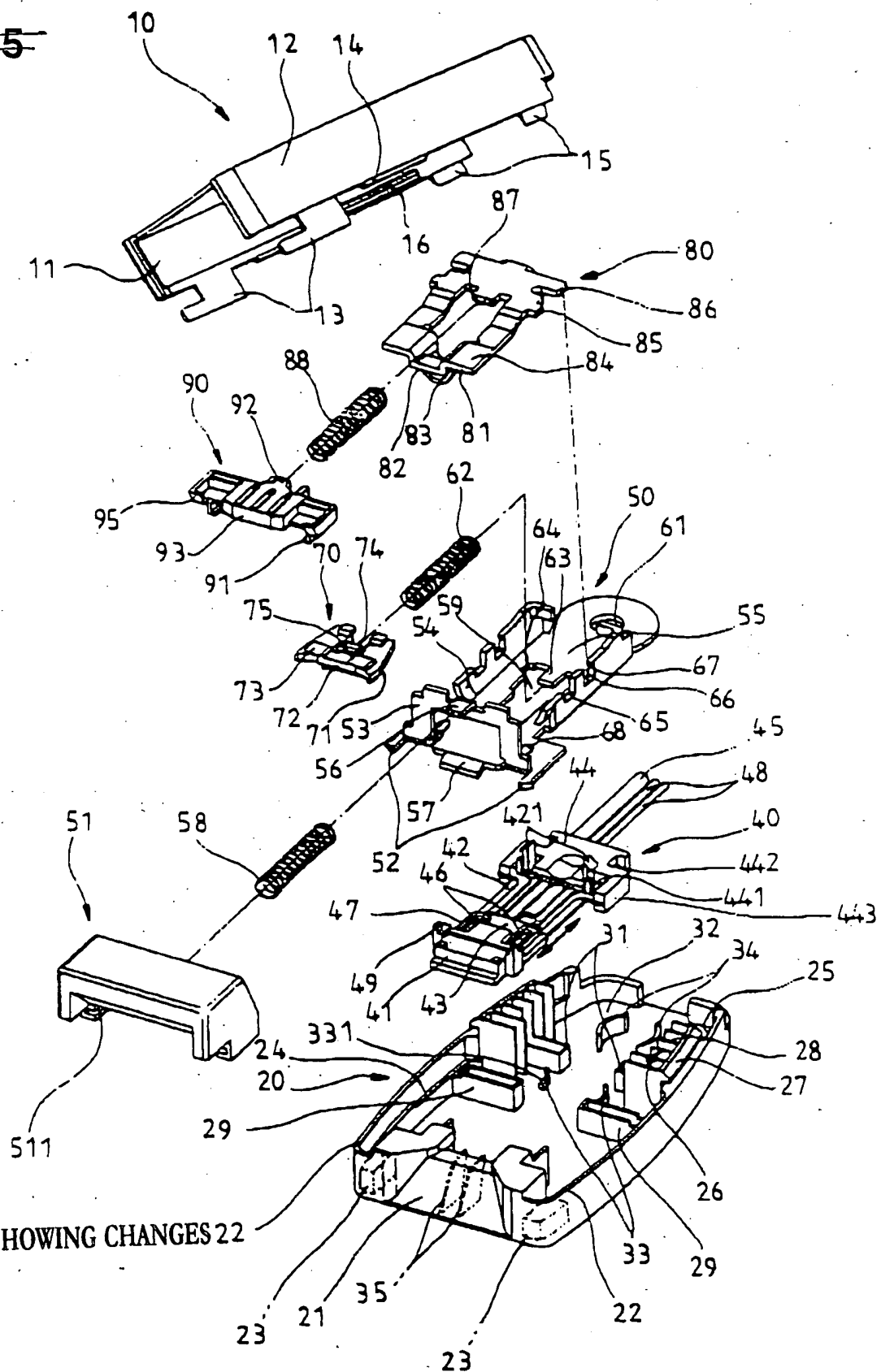
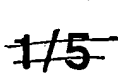
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Date: December 3, 2004
JLS/dmt

IN THE DRAWINGS:

A Letter to the Official Draftsman is attached with proposed drawing corrections to Figures 1-5.

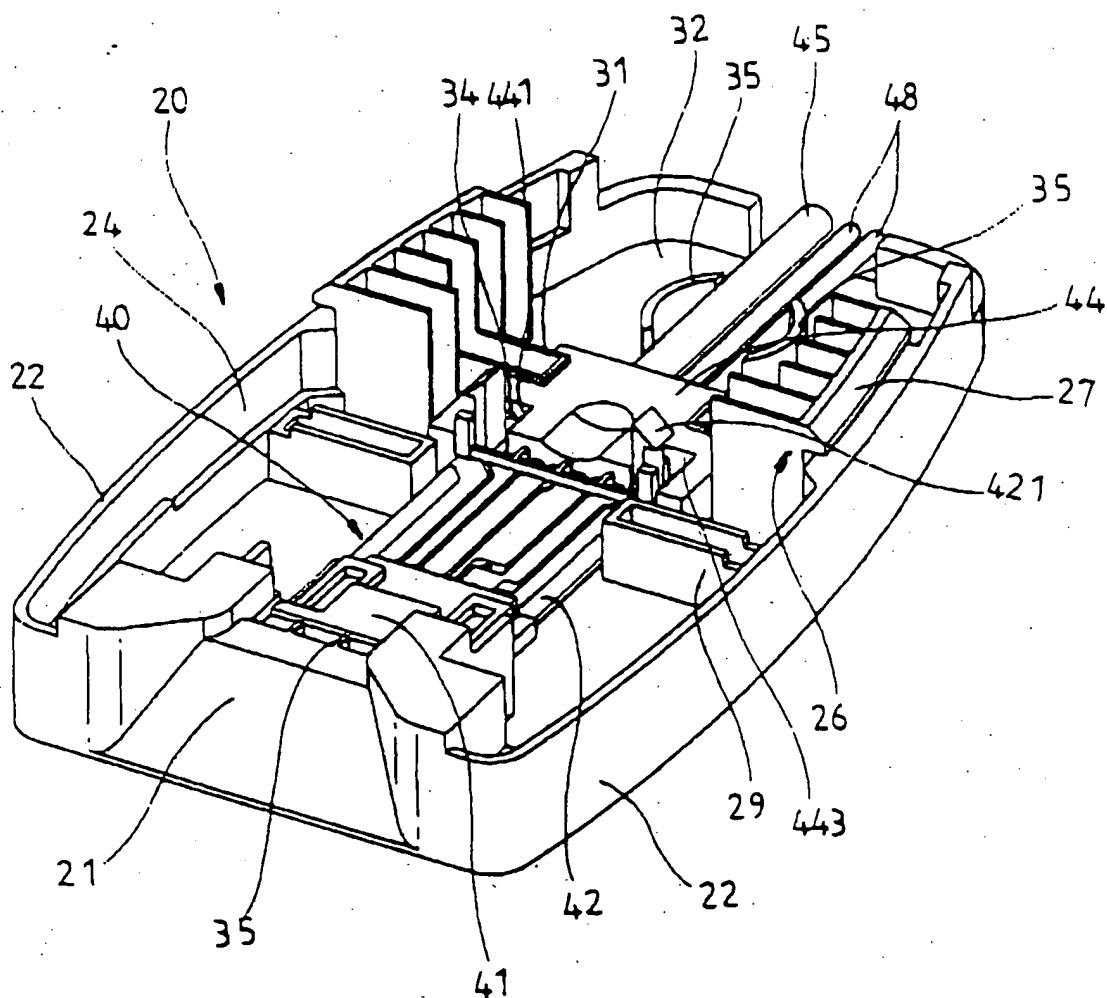
The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figs. 1-5. These sheets, which includes Figs. 1-5, replaces the original sheets of Figs. 1-5.



ANNOTATED SHEET SHOWING CHANGES 22

FIG. 2

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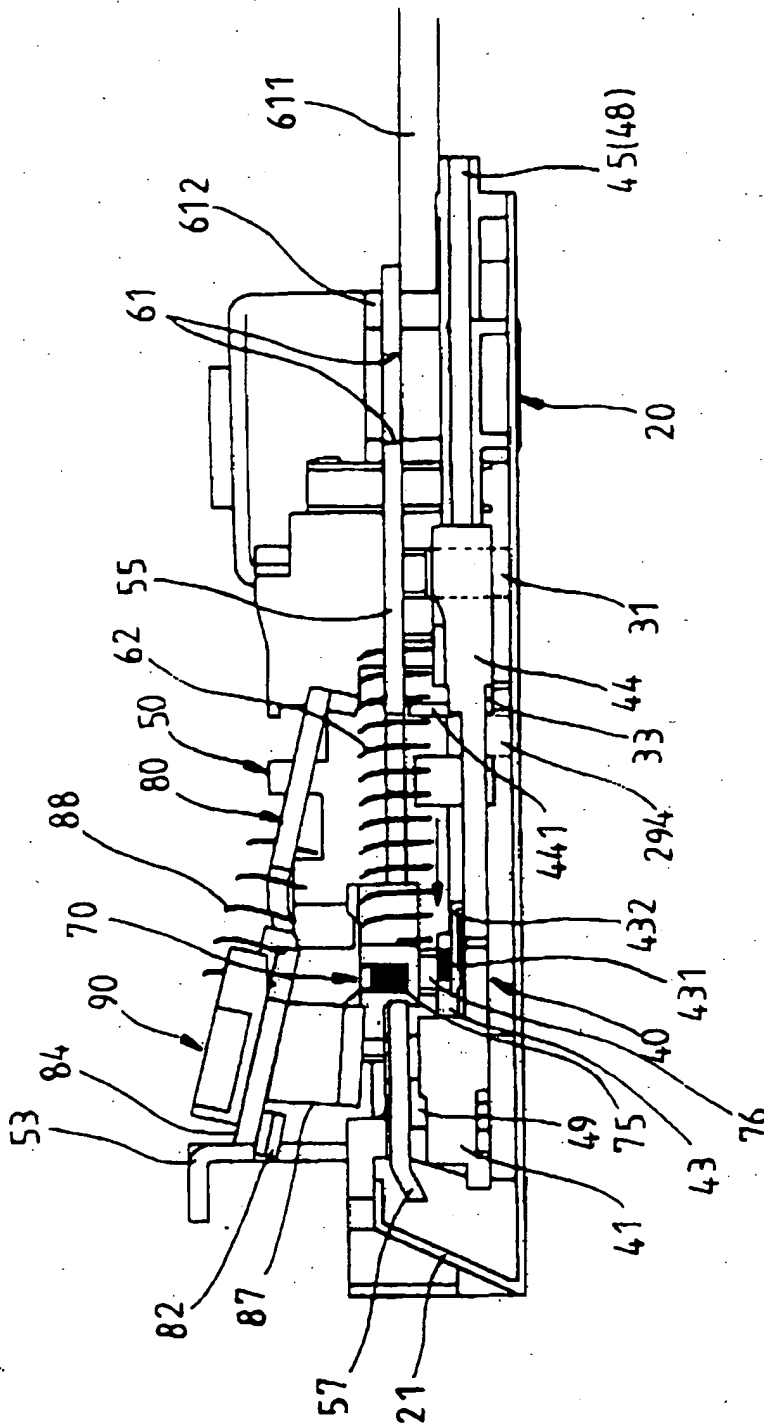


ANNOTATED SHEET SHOWING CHANGES

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~~FIG. 4A~~

~~4/5~~



~~FIG. 4B~~

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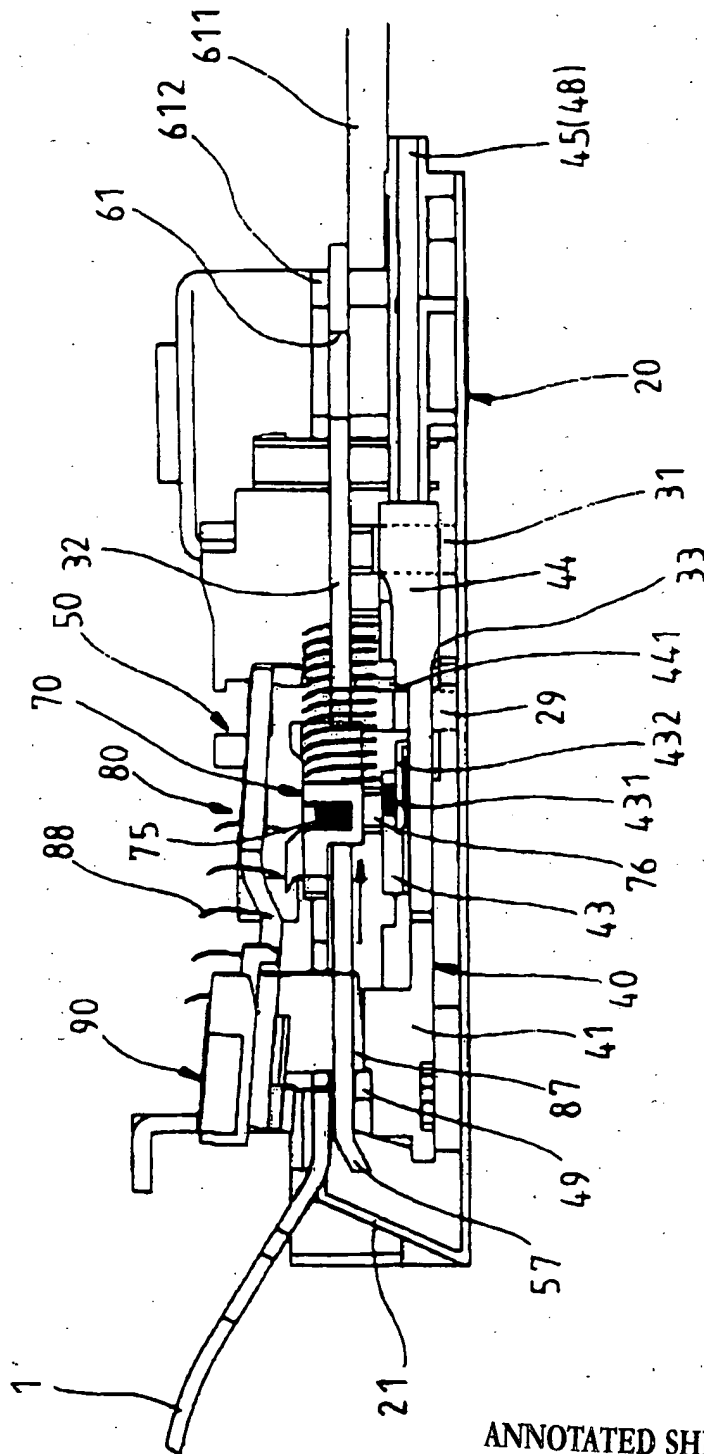


FIG. 4B

ANNOTATED SHEET SHOWING CHANGES